

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes – Final

January 17, 2007

In Attendance: Marlissa Briggett, Victoria Cohen, Joseph Curro, Christine Deshler, A. Nick Minton, Nancy Rhoads, Marlene Schultz, Bill Shea

Absent: Sheri Baron, Christine Carney, Mahendra Desai, Nancy Sweeney

Citizens Open Forum – Our guests this evening came to speak of their experiences with the ADL and to discuss their reasons for opposition to the *No Place For Hate* program. Though they do support the program they feel strongly that the ADL has a narrow and parochial agenda and because of the ADL position on Israel, Palestine and Mid-East, they will not support the program at this time.

MLK Committee - Janice Bakey was also a guest this evening and she spoke of the growth of the MLK Committee over the years working with the people of Arlington, especially in the schools. She explained that their fundraising is always difficult, but that all their monies go to educating students on civil rights issues; the King Center, the Arlington African-American Society, the Scholarship Fund, books, etc. She is very encouraged with the support of Mr. Skidmore on racial issues at the High School and grateful for the commitment of the Town, and especially with the success of the annual celebration and how it has grown over the years. She expressed her gratitude for the many years we have worked together on projects and requested our continued support.

Minutes for December - accepted

Review Minutes for January

On-going Business –

Diversity Seminars – all proposals have been submitted and after much discussion of finances and questions of which program we should commit to – it was decided that there would be an interview process and the commissioners will meet with those who submitted proposals. The meeting is set for February 12th at Robbins House at 7:30pm. Nancy will work with organizing funding and Bill Shea will go before the finance committee. More to follow.

Budget – commissioners have been asked to be specific about our expenditures – a budget subcommittee will be organized with hopes to work on grants – tabled until next meeting.

Incidents and Complaints – none to report this month

Subcommittee Report –

Dialogues - feelers are out there, but nothing definite yet – still working on previous suggestions: Understanding Islam, Special Education, Talking with Kids About Racism - tabled

Schools –we are still waiting to hear from Supt. Levenson on a date for him to speak with the commission.

Policies and Procedures – none to report this month

Rapid Response/Publicity – Joe Curro continues to work on the website.

New Business –

NPFH - Bill Shea reported on a recent talk with Chief Ryan who asked if 3-4 people would work with the APD on the NPFH program. Bill feels strongly that the commission should support the chief, as he has been so cooperative with the commission when we ask. Some commissioners felt this could be one way to promote some programs we have always wanted. Also, we need to be a part of it to make sure nobody's rights are compromised. A dialogue was suggested to express and address positions on this matter and of course, if a problem should arise, there's always the power to withdraw. Concerns were expressed by some commissioners and after more discussion four members volunteered. The next meeting of the NPFH will be February 6 at 6:30 at the APD.

Vacancy on Commission – follow up to Mr. Worden regarding applications to fill vacancy.

Election for Chair – Joseph Curro was elected as Chairperson for the next year as of 2/1/2007 – Nancy Rhoads will be Vice-Chair. Nancy was congratulated on a job well done for her duties as Chair this past year. Thanks, Nancy!

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM

Prepared and submitted by:

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